

## George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, April 6, 1795.

Sir: Having fixed on Monday the 13th. instt. to commence my journey for Virginia, and made arrangements to do business in the federal city on my way down accordingly: It is my desire that the instructions for Genl. Wayne's government, at the treaty which is proposed to be held with the Western Indians in June next, may be laid before me without delay, that I may have time to consider them. It is my further desire that all such other matters as may require any opinion, or directions of mine before the fifth of May, ensuing, may be submitted to me as early in the present week, as you are able to prepare them.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, April 7, 1795.

Sir: I have perused the Bill which you sent me for laying out a town &ca. at Presqu-Isle.

The portion of land allotted for a fortification at that place by the 4th. section, is much too small for the object; for if ever the work is assailed, the houses and other obstructions within range of its shot must be removed, or the artillery therein would be rendered useless and of course the defence insufficient; whilst under cover of these obstructions, approaches would be made undiscovered and without loss. Fortifications ought always to be placed upon the *most* commanding ground, as well for annoyance as defence; why therefore confine the one intended to be erected at Presqu-Isle to the *South* side of the harbour, when a more eligible site for the purpose might be found on the other? Why not

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give the Und. States while their troops occupy the Post the same interest and priviledges therein, as is required by them elsewhere? It appears to me expedient, that through the same medium, which presented the Bill to you, or some other indirect channel, the defects here mentioned, should be made known *in time* for amendments if it shall so please the Legislature.

By the 12th. Section of the aforesaid Bill, it would seem that as soon as troops of the United States are sent to Presqu-Isle, the Governor is required to discharge those belonging to the State; except such as shall be found necessary to cover the Commissioners &ca. How then in the *present* moment is this work to be executed? that is, by whom, and under whose auspices and direction? All these things are essential and ought to be clearly understood, and without delay; as I want, before I Reave the city, to know precisely upon what footing the matter can be placed.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, April 13, 1795.

Sir: It would be equally improper (on account of the expence, and other inconveniences which would attend the measure) to continue the Militia army in the western counties in this State, longer in service than the nature and exigency of the case may require or, under the reports which prevail of threatenings against the Collectors, and other indications of latent discontent, to disband it before a full submission to the revenue laws is unequivocally manifested. Under this view of the subject it would seem most adviseable and proper, to reduce the force there by degrees, and to begin this without delay, accompanying it with your best endeavours to discover, the real temper, and true state of things in that quarter, that it may be known when the whole may be disbanded with safety and propriety. Conformably to these ideas, I would have you act.<sup>52</sup>

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52. The original of this letter is in the possession (1932) of Frances W. Story, of Cambridge, Mass.

On April 14 Washington wrote a brief note of thanks to Rev. Isaac Story, of Marblehead, Mass., for the sermons sent.

On this same day (April 14) Dandridge wrote to John M. Pintard that the ship *Ganges*, belonging to Willing & Francis, was about to sail from Philadelphia for the East Indies, stopping at Madeira on the way out, and that the owners had offered to take from Madeira two pipes of wine for the President. Pintard was therefore requested to ship two pipes of the best Madeira to the President "the cost of which shall be paid to your order." The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: On Saturday morning I received your letter of the 21st instt with its enclosures. The Post of tomorrow from Alexandria is the first by which I could answer it.

If the meeting of the Commissioners, appointed to treat with the Onondagoes, Cayuga and Oneida Indians, took place at Albany the 15th. instant, as was expected by the extract of Genl. Schuylers letter to the Governor of New York; any further sentiment *now* on the unconstitutionality of the measure would be recd. too late. If it did not take place, according to expectation It is my desire that you would obtain the best advice you can on the case and do what prudence, with a due regard to the Constitution and laws, shall dictate.

With respect to the meeting which is proposed to be held with the St. Regis Indians the proposition of Govr. Jay<sup>59</sup> is regular; and I can think of no better character than Colo. Wadsworth or Mr. Boudinot<sup>60</sup> to attend it on the part of the U States. If both should decline

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the service any other respectable and well known disinterested character would meet my approbation equally.

The extract from Mr. Higgenson's<sup>61</sup> letter, which you were so obliging as to send me, places the proceedings of the town

59. Gov. John Jay, of New York.

60. Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth and Elias Boudinot.

61. Stephen Higginson, of Boston, Mass.

of Boston in a different point of view than might have been entertained from the resolutions wch. were sent to me by Express, accompanied with a letter from the Selectmen of that place. But (much indeed to be regretted!) party disputes are now carried to that length, and truth is so enveloped in mist, and false representation that it is extremely difficult to know through what channel to seek it. This difficulty to one, who is of no party, and whose sole wish is to pursue, with undeviating steps a path which would lead this Country to respectability, wealth and happiness is exceedingly to be lamented. But such (for wise purposes it is presumed) is the turbulence of human passions in party disputes; when victory, more than truth, is the palm contended for, "that the Post of honor is a private Station." With much esteem etc.

### **To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1795.

Sir: If, when this reaches your hands, there should be no contract or other obligation existing on behalf of the U.S. for the purchase of land on the Potomac,

intended for the public Arsenal, I should wish all further negotiation in this business to be suspended until proper inquiries can be made and information obtained respecting

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the property at the junction of the Potomac and Shanandoah rivers in this State; for it has been represented to me, that this spot affords every advantage that could be wished for water works to any extent; and that no place is more capable of complete defence at a small expense. And I am also informed that from 800 to 1000 Acres of land might be obtained there on reasonable terms. The land at the junction of the two Rivers, including what is called Harper's ferry, has lately been leased for 7 years, and the lessee has the right of purchasing whenever it may be sold. Should this spot be fixed upon for the Arsenal, the Lessee will relinquish his title to the U. S. reserving only a small piece of the land for the purpose of building Stores and doing business. Six hundred Acres of land adjoining this tract is, I am told, offered for sale by Colo. Ball for fifteen hundred pounds Virga money. Colo. Ball has a lease of this tract for 70 years at £5 pr. 100 Acres, and a number of years have been already paid in the lease. The fee is in Genl. Henry Lee who I have no doubt will dispose

of his right on very reasonable terms.

There is another small tract, with a saw mill upon it, adjoining the two foregoing, which I am told may be also purchased. From my own knowledge, I can speak of the eligibility of this situation for a public Arsenal; but as I have never examined it very attentively, I am not able to speak so decidedly as to the advantages of erecting works there. These, however, I am told, are equal to any on the Potomac or its branches, having the advantage of a considerable fall in both Rivers, which may be brought to operate at this place. At any rate if the thing is open it may be well to have enquiry made and prices ascertained before it becomes known that this spot is in view. I am etc.<sup>55</sup>

**\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, September 18, 1795.

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Sir: Your letter of the 11th. with two others from you dated the 14 instant, were received yesterday.

The summary of the dispatches from Governor Blount, was more agreeable to me than complete transcripts of his letter with the enclosures; and the same practice

55. The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

where information only is intended, may govern in other cases.

I am very glad to find that the Creeks are so well disposed for Peace with the Chiccawaws. I hope their professions are sincere, and that the attempt to recover their prisoners is no finesse. I hope also that Govr. Blount will go to work in earnest to accomplish this measure, *effectually* . If so, the request in my last that Seagrove should be immediately dispatched on this business may be superceded; but of this I leave you to judge; after expressing an earnest wish that so desirable an object as Peace betwn. these Tribes may not be impeded either by delay, or want of exertion in the Agent, or Agents who are to negotiate it.

I do not, I confess, see how the application of Colo. Lowther<sup>56</sup> is to be reconciled with the pacific dispositions of the Indians; as related from all quarters. The footing you have placed the matter upon with the Govr. of Virginia, is the best the case will admit; but I would press him not to suffer the detachments which have been drawn out by the former to remain in service longer than the exigency of the case shall absolutely require. There is too great a propensity in

56. Col. William Lowther, of Virginia.

the Officers commanding on the frontiers to call out the Militia, and to establish such corps.

**\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

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Mount Vernon, September 28, 1795.

Sir: Two letters from you, dated the 21st. instant, and one of the 23d, came to Alexandria by the Post on Friday.

I will immediately set on foot an enquiry relative to the prospect of obtaining the lands sufficient for an Arsenal at the confluence of the Rivers Potomac and Shenandoah. From what I have heard of this site, and partly from what I know of it, it must be the most eligible spot on the whole river in every point of view, for a work of this sort. The object for which the enquiry will be made, can, and will be effectually cloaked by the Gentleman I shall employ to make it.

It is a little surprising that the Treaty with the Western Indians<sup>69</sup> has not been received from Generl. Wayne; and very extraordinary that he should permit a copy of it to be taken; especially before it was laid before the proper authorities and approved. I am very sorry to hear that the Shawanees were not fully

69. Pickering's letter of September 21 states: "Colo Sargeant who arrived on Friday, and called on me Saturday, showed me a copy of the treaty, without the names subscribed to it, and expressed his surprise that the original had not been received." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*. A certified copy of the treaty signed at Greenville, Aug. 9, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*. It was forwarded to the President in Pickering's letter of September 28.

represented at this Treaty. Were the other tribes more so?

If the information which Mr. Seagrove has received from his deputies, relatively to the conclusion of Peace between the Creeks and Chickasaws,<sup>70</sup> is to be relied on, it is an event from which I shall derive much satisfaction; and shall wait anxiously for a confirmation of the news.

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The number of men you propose as a cover for the Stores, and trading Post proposed to be established at Colerain, can, if the Treaty with the Western Indians is (as we understand) concluded, be well spared; and as there seems to be as great an occasion for a force to restrain the turbulent and disorderly people on that frontier from disturbing the Peace of the United States as there is for protection against the Indians, I think a garrison of 150 or 200 men according to circumstances, at the place above mentioned, will be properly disposed of, and I desire they may be sent accordingly.

Give the dispatches to Mr. Pinckney all the chances that may offer immediately of getting them speedily to hand, or the trouble of preparing them will be lost labour. I am glad to find by Governor Fenner's letter, that the measures adopted by the Genl. Government, relatively

70. Seagrove's letter from Philadelphia to the Secretary of War (September 20) states:

"My letters inform that a Copy of the Treaty was forwarded to me by a vessel from Savannah to this place which may be hourly expected; as soon as it arrives I shall have the honor of presenting it to you." A copy of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

to the British Vice Consul Moore,<sup>71</sup> and the Captn. of the Africa has been satisfactory to the people of Rhode Island. It has not been so, I perceive, to the Editor of the Aurora; for in that paper, it is set down as a contrivance to through [ *sic* ] the Medusa into the hands of the British.

71. Thomas William Moore, British vice consul in Rhode Island. His exequatur was revoked by the President, September 5.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, October 7, 1795.



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Sir: Your communications of the 2d Inst have been duly received.

General Wayne will, I hope and expect, leave the Garrisons in his advanced Posts sufficiently respectable. In the present uncertainty of what may be the final result of the treaty with Great Britain, and from the intimations of Captn. Brant, we ought not in my opinion to œconomise at too Great a hazard; nor build *too much* , in the *present* moment. on the treaty of peace with the Western Indians.<sup>81</sup>

### **\*To THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mount Vernon, October 12, 1795.

Sir: Your letters of the 2d. and 5th. instant came to my hands on thursday last, but it was not in my power, conveniently to acknowledge the receipt of them by the succeeding Post.

It is a very singular occurrence that Mr. Pinckney should make use of a cypher to which there is no counterpart, or key in the Office of State! A kind of fatality seems to have pursued this negotiation and in short *all* our concerns with Spain from the appointment of Mr. Carmichael under the

81. The draft at this point has the following crossed out: "In a word no uncommon pains are taking to disturb the quiet of this country by enflaming the passions of its citizens and what will be the issue is not easy to predict."

On October 7 Washington wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting that commissions be made out for several minor officials in the revenue service. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

new government as Minister to that country up to the present day. If the Cyphers which have been furnished Mr. Gouv. Morris, Mr. Jay, Mr. Adams, and Colo. Humphreys, or any of them are different from those by which the letter of Mr. Pinckney has been

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tried, let them also be resorted to; otherwise as the business has commenced in error, the continuance therein is highly probable, until that Gentleman is informed of this extraordinary inattention and is thereby led to correct it; of course the most material and interesting parts of his communications will be lost. Enough however appears already to shew the temper and policy of the Spanish Court, and its undignified cond. as it respects themselves, and insultg as it relates to us; and I fear will prove that their late treaty of Peace with France portends nothing favorable to the interests of these United States.

I am glad to find however that matters are going on well in Morocco; but much concerned to hear of the unfavorable decision in the high Court of Appeals on one of the Spoliation Cases in London.

I shall (as mentioned in one of my last letters) set out for Philadelphia this day<sup>88</sup> but business with the Comrs. of the Federal City

88. Washington left Mount Vernon, as stated, on October 12 and arrived in Philadelphia on October 20.

will detain me in George town tomorrow, and of course keep me a day longer from the seat of government than I expected.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, November 20, 1795.

Sir: In my communications to Congress at the opening of the ensuing Session, I shall refer to the department of War for information on the following Subjects.

A statement of our present Military force; terms of its establishment, and the disposition thereof, generally.

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A statement of the fortifications, and defences of the several harbours, agreeably to acts of Congress passed for that purpose.

The present state of the frigates; prospect of their completion; and causes wch. have impeded the progress of them.

The measures which have been pursued to obtain proper sites for the Arsenals, and for replenishing the Magazines.

The train in which the 50,000 Drs. granted for the purpose of an Indian Trade is.

And, as there are some defects in the establishment of the Mint; or at least some legislative provisions are wanting to render it more complete, and to restrain some interferences which seem to be arising in other Quarters; it is necessary that the report of the late Director, with a supplementary one from the present, if he has anything to add thereto should be prepared previous to the opening of the Session.

All these statements must be in readiness to accompany the Speech, as the latter, without them, will be incomplete, one sett for each house must be prepared.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, March 11, 1796.

Sir: The letters, with their enclosures from Genl. Wilkenson, shew in an additional *strong* point of view, the indispensable necessity of moving the requisite quantity of Provisions and Stores to the upper Posts of the Army, North West of the Ohio. I therefore desire, you will not only *make* the necessary arrangements with Genl. Wayne (to whom the contents of these Papers might be communicated) but *direct* them to be carried into effect without delay; before the Season for Water transportation is lost.

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By the returns wch. you have laid before me a number of Muskets with Bayonets (3000) are required! Enquire of Genl. Wayne on what principle, and for what purpose this demand is made. As also what is become of the Arms of those men whose terms of Service have expired.

A great number of Officers appear to be on furlough. One of whom Captn. Sedam,<sup>60</sup> since Novr. 1791; and another, Captn. Heth,<sup>61</sup> since March 1792; these require explanation.

60. Capt. Cornelius Ryer Sedam, of the First Sub-Legion. He was honorably discharged, Nov. 1, 1796.

61. Capt. John Heth, of the Third Sub-Legion. He was transferred to the Third Infantry in 1796 and honorably discharged in June, 1802.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Sunday Afternoon, May 8, 49 1796.

Dear Sir: The enclosed letter<sup>50</sup> presents a serious, perhaps a just view of the subject which has been under consideration; and as I wish in everything, particularly in matters of foreign relation, to conduct with caution; I request that your letter to the Govt. Genl. of Canada; the Instructions to Majr. Lewis;<sup>51</sup> and all your arrangements respecting the reception of the Posts, may accord with the ideas contained therein. <sup>52</sup>

Let the march of the Troops wch. are to take possession of the Posts be facilitated as much as possible; and let every measure necessary thereto for supplying them on the march, and when there, be concerted without delay. I am etc.

49. Sparks prints this letter as dated May 9.

50. From the Attorney General. It is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

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51. There were three Captains Lewis in the United States Army at this date, but no Major Lewis.

52. On this same day (May 8) McHenry submitted to the President, in accordance with the above, the draft of a letter to Lord Dorchester, Governor General of Canada, and also a draft of a private instruction to Lewis, whom McHenry calls Captain Lewis. McHenry's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, June 22, 1796.

Sir: Your letters of the 14th and 15th instant have been received, but not in time to have been answered by the Post of Monday last; being then on my Journey to this place.<sup>2</sup>

The ground on which you place the compliance with Lieutt. Geddes's 3 request, appears to be the best the nature of the case is now susceptible of; and for that purpose,

2. Washington left Philadelphia the morning of June 13. He arrived at Washington, June 18; at Georgetown, June 19; and at Mount Vernon, June 20.

3. Lieut. Simon Geddes, U.S. Artillery and Engineers. He was dismissed in December, 1796.

I return the Proceedings of the Court Martial and other Papers relative thereto, that they may be forwarded to the Commandant at West point.

As Major Cushing<sup>4</sup> founds his application for a furlough (among other reasons) on his having been on duty ever since he entered the service in the year 1791, and because he was permitted to visit his friends in the Eastern States I think he ought to be indulged in a *reasonable* absence from the Army; counting the time he has spent in Philadelphia as part of it, although it was not the place to have effected the last of the objects before

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mentioned; and surely not the best for restoring health, that had been debilitated by a severe intermittant last Autumn; (another reason he has assigned in favor of the indulgence he solicits).

I forgot to obtain a certified copy from the Office of State (with the Seal annexed) of the Act Guaranteeing the loan for the use of the Federal City, and another respecting (if I recollect rightly) the authenticity of the Commissioners appointment both of which were deemed necessary to accompany the Power of Attorney to Messrs. Willinks. Let these be sent to me by the return Post, and I will cause triplicates to be forwarded from hence to those gentlemen in order to insure the arrival of one sett.

4. Maj. Thomas Humphrey Cushing, U.S. Sub-legion, later Inspector General, United States Army.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, July 1, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 27th. Ulto. by Post, with its enclosures (the originals of which, I return) came to my hands on Wednesday. And your other letters of the 27th. and 28th. by Express, was received about five oclock yesterday afternoon.

The accounts brought in the latter, are very pleasing indeed, inasmuch as they will serve to remove the doubts of the credulous (with respect to the Western Posts); and when realized, be productive of that tranquillity, and peace with the Indians which, in itself, is so desirable; and has been so much wished and sought for, by every real friend to his Country.

It is my desire that the charges exhibited against General Wayne by Brigadier Wilkenson, with the letters of crimination on both sides,

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should be laid before the heads of Departments; and yours and their opinions reported to me on the measures necessary to be pursued to do justice to the Public; the accused; and the accuser; As also when, and by whom, the enquiry is to be made; with the preliminary steps necessary thereto.<sup>24</sup>

There are no Officers, I conceive, of sufficient rank to constitute a Court before whom the Commander in chief can be brought. Is the matter then to come before Congress? In what manner? My first impression relative to this business (though not maturely, or distinctly formed) is, that General Wayne ought, immediately, to be furnished with a copy of *all* the charges exhibited against him by the Brigadier; in order, as many of them are of old standing that he may have time allowed him to recollect circumstances; and to see what satisfactory explanations can be given; that he may not be unprepared for trial whensoever he is called upon.

It may be well if it can be accomplished, by civil expressions, to stimulate the present Governor of Tennessee to an effectual repression of incroachments on Indian Territory (secured to them by Treaties): but the honor of the government, and the Peace of the Union, require, that if he is not decisive, the Laws relative thereto, be not suspended, or trifled with; but promptly, and energetically (with temper and prudence) enforced.

I will not speak upon the new model of the Army now, but will take more time to consider the scheme for resolving the Legion into four Regi

24. McHenry's answer, dated Oct. 10, 1796, is in the *Washington Papers*.

ments, on the plan you have suggested.

In speaking of the Generals Wayne and Wilkinson, I omitted to add, as my opinion, that the latter (if leave has not been given already) ought to obtain the furlough he has asked;

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and as soon as the former joins the Army; for no good will result from both being with it in the irritable temper they are in, at the sametime. 25

25. From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

### **To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, July 11, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 6th. instant, with copies of other letters to the Secretaries of State, and Treasury; respecting the charges exhibited by Brigadier Wilkinson against General Wayne, has been received; and when an opinion is formed thereon, I shall expect to receive it.

I know of nothing, at present, that will prevent my being in Philadelphia between the 15th. of August and first of September: As then, there will be abundant time between that period and the 31st. of October (when the new Military Establishment is to take place) to arrange the Officers to the several Corps; and as much information may be obtained,

and many things cast up between this and then to lessen the difficulty, and obtain relief from the disagreeable task of *deranging* Officers I am induced to postpone a final decision in this case 'till I return to the Seat of Government, unless there are causes which do not occur to me, to require it sooner; of which you will not fail to inform me. 68

68. In the writing of George Washington Craik.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, July 18, 1796.



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Sir: Your letters of the 10th, 12th and 13th. instant, with their enclosures, came all by the last Mail to Alexandria; and were received by me on Saturday morning. The contents of such parts as require it, shall be noticed.

The greatest, and what appears to me to be an insuperable difficulty in the way of running and marking the boundary line between the United States and the Cherokee tribe of Indians, the ensuing Autumn (which is certainly the most agreeable season for a work of this sort) is, that no Commissioners are, or can be appointed to superintend the same, in the recess

of the Senate; which, unless extra causes should render it expedient, will not happen before the first Monday in December. This circumstance, in addition to the reasons assigned in your letters, renders a postponement of this measure until next year, unavoidable. But that it may not be delayed beyond a convenient time in the Spring, the Indians may be requested to come instructed to arrange matters for carrying the measure into effect *at that period*. *Their* interest, and the tranquillity of *our* frontier; requires that this line should not only be run (with as little loss of time as can possibly be avoided) but be very distinctly marked also; that ignorance may no longer be offered as a plea for transgressions on either side. and to ascertain in the interem, whether Genl. Pickens will serve as a Commissioner.

I hope, and expect that the proposed visit from the Cherokee Chiefs, will be managed so, as not to take place before the Month of Novemr. I have already, been incommoded, at this place, by a visit of several days, from a party of a dozen Cattawbas; and should wish while I am in this retreat, to avoid a repetition of such guests. The reason why I name November, is, that between the middle and latter end of August, I shall repair to the Seat of government; remain there until between the middle and last of September; and then return to this place again for my family.

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The extract which you enclosed in your letter of the 10th, from the Secretary of the Treasury, declaring his inability to furnish money for carrying on Commerce with the Indian Tribes, renders the appointment of Agents for that purpose, *at present*,

altogether improper: and whether the Act “to regulate Trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes, and to preserve Peace on the Frontiers” does, or does not go fully to the points which are enumerated in your letter of the 12th, there seems, under existing circumstances, no expedient so proper to execute the requisites of the above Act, and the duties enjoined on the late Superintendent of Indian affairs in the Southwestern Territory, which have become stagnant by the admission of it as a State into the Union,<sup>79</sup> as by applying the Services (under temporary regulations, and proper Instructions) of Colo. Henley or Mr. Dinsmore, or both, as the case shall, after duly considering it, appear to require. But if this expedient is resorted to, Mr. Dinsmore ought to return *immediately*.

My ideas with respect to the most eligible mode of procuring the 36 Gun Frigate, have, already (in a former letter) been conveyed to you; and your Instructions to Mr. Fox does, I perceive, accord therewith; but lest I may not perfectly understand another part of them, which relates to Timber and Plank, which certainly come under the description of “Perishable articles”; in the Act discontinuing three of the Frigates, and directing such of the Materials as are perishable to be sold; I shall give it as my decisive opinion, that *all Wood*, not necessary for the retained Frigates; and the one wanted for Algiers; except the large pieces which have been obtained with difficulty and at a heavy expence, and which would not answer for ordinary Vessels and would sell for little; ought to be sold, agreeably to the directions of the

79. Tennessee, June 1, 1796.

aforesaid Act. If they are reserved; Secured from the weather; and persons employed to take care of them; the expence and imposition will exceed all calculation: and be wasted, or embezzled notwithstanding.<sup>80</sup>

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80. From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 18th. instant with its enclosures, came to hand by the last Mail. Such of the latter, as are original, I herewith return to your Office.

It would appear from the extract of Mr. Habersham's letter, that the Treaty (or rather meeting) between the Georgians and Creek Indians, has terminated unfavourably; and will tend, it is to be feared, to hostilities. A favorable result could not have been predicted from the Speech of the Georgia Commissioners, at their Commencement of the business with the Indian Chiefs; and it having ended without a Cession of Land, I shall be agreeably disappointed if there are not other means, soon used, to get possession of them.

By the letters from General Wilkinson and Captn. Bruff,<sup>86</sup> I expect the Western Posts will soon be in our possession; and I hope proper measures will be adopted to keep the Garrisons well supplied with Provisions and Military Stores.<sup>87</sup>

86. Capt. James Bruff, of the United States Artillerists and Engineers.

87. From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

### **To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, July 25, 1796.

Sir: The enclosed letter from Mr. Landais,<sup>88</sup> transmitting one from you to him, was received by the last Post.

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Filling the vacancies in the Corps of Artillery, before the adjournment of the Senate, was suggested; but why, as it was not proposed by the military Act, that it should under go any diminution, it was not done, my memory does not serve me.

If there are more Cadets in that Regiment than Mr. Landais; and there are not some distinguishing circumstances between his case and theirs, no discrimination, even if the authority in the recess of the Senate was competent, can be made in his favor, notwithstanding

88. Cadet Philip Landais. He was nominated for a lieutenancy in the Artillerists and Engineers, December 15.

his desires, and the peculiarities which are detailed in his letter. I send it however, that you may consider the case and report thereon. 89

89. In the writing of George Washington Craik.

### **To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 25th instant, enclosing the Treaty with the Creek Indians, and other Papers relative thereto, has been received.

The Papers are returned, and due consideration, it is expected, will be given them; and a report thereof made.

Four months (the time allowed by the above Treaty; for running the boundary line between that Nation and the United States) seems, under any circumstances, to be hardly sufficient to arrange matters for such a Work; but if it is to be done under

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the Authority of the Treaty newly entered into, and the Senate are to have an Agency in the appointment of the Surveyor &ca. The Commissioners (on the part of the United States) have agreed to the measure, the execution of which is impracticable; as there is an interval of more than five Months between the date of the Treaty and meeting of the Senate; consequently, no ratification of it in that period; nor appointments, if the advice and consent of the Senate to them, be necessary, can be obtained without convening that body.

Conformably to the Treaty of New York, with the Creeks, a Mr. Ellicot 1 was empowered to run the line; but whether any person on behalf of the United States was commissioned to see it done, or whether the appointment of Mr. Ellicott was made with, or without the participation of the Senate, my memory does not enable me to pronounce. Be this however as it may, the Constitution and Laws must govern in this case.<sup>2</sup>

### **To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, August 1, 1796.

Sir: The Post of Friday last brought me your dispatches of the 26th Ultio, with the Papers therein enclosed.

The draught of a letter to the Agent

1. Andrew Ellicott.

2. In the writing of George Washington Craik.

of the Department of War, and the Instructions for the person proposed as Deputy paymaster and Storekeeper in the State of Tennessee, are guarded and proper. The only doubt remaining with me, is, whether so many Officers, in that quarter, are really necessary; and whether some of them may not, in the public estimation, be considered

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(after the Indian Agent for that Department is appointed) in the light of sinecures. If, however, upon a thorough investigation of the duties of their several Offices, it shall be found that the service would be too hard upon a less number, or that they are necessary as checks, I consent to the appointment of Mr. Hilles as Deputy Paymaster and Storekeeper; provided his conduct in the Accomptants Office has afforded sufficient evidence of its fitness to discharge the duties required by your Instructions; to do which, properly, he ought to be a person of some experience in business; to be able to execute it with judgment; to possess firmness; and great integrity.

What will be the occupations of Mr. Dinsmore? and what is become of a Mr. Shaw (that was, if I recollect rightly, the name of a person) who was sent some time ago by Genl. Knox (while Secretary of War) into that quarter? There certainly can be no occasion for continuing the latter, if the former is retained.

A Troop of Horse, in my opinion, may, for the reasons you have assigned, be necessary on the frontiers of Georgia; and I desire they may join Conolel [ *sic* ] Gaither<sup>5</sup> accordingly.

5. Lieut. Col. Commandant Henry Gaither, of the Third Sub-Legion, United States Army.

I have no objection to the releasment of Lieutt. Geddis<sup>6</sup> from his present arrest, at the request of those Officers who have asked it; But as the Attorney General will be at Philadelphia, I would have his opinion taken on the *power* of granting a pardon for the Offence of which he has been found guilty, and Cashired; and the mode by which it may, with propriety be accomplished: for it may be questioned, whether a remital of the Sentence of the Court, ought not to be preceeded by an Act of approval, or rejection, as the foundation. At any rate some attention to the form (which I request may be given) will be necessary.

I am glad to find by Mr. Byers letter to Colo. Henley, that Spiritous liquor is not necessary to carry on trade with the Indians. I have always been of opinion that it was productive of

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more discontent and mischief than good, and therefore hope it will cease to be an article of Traffic on public Account.<sup>7</sup>

### **To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, August 3, 1796.

Sir: In reply to your statement of the case of the Cadets, in the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers; I give it as my opinion that no promotion of them should take place at present, under the circumstances you have related.

6. Lieut. Simon Geddes (Geddis), of the Artillerists and Engineers.

7. In the writing of George Washington Craik.

When I return to Philadelphia, it will be expected that you will bring forward the general plan for new modeling the Army agreeably to the late Act of Congress, at which time it may be expedient to take into consideration the case of Landais, and other Cadets in the above Corps.<sup>16</sup>

16. In the writing of George Washington Craik.

### **To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, August 8, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 3d. instant, with the information of our possession of Fort Ontario (lately occupied by the Troops of Great Britain) and the correspondence between Captn. Bruff of the United States Troops, and Captn. Clarke of the British, was brought to me by the last Post.

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Several matters are submitted by the former for consideration; among them, the mode of supplying the Garrison with fire Wood, and furnishing it with a Sein. With respect to the first of these, providing it with a Horse, or pair of Horses, and a Batteau (as the fuel is to be transported so far) seems to be a matter of necessity; but the practice of the American Army should be consulted for precedents, before the British allowance or indeed any allowance, is made to the Soldiers for cutting and transporting of it to the Fort, when the means by which it is done, are furnished by the public. If no allowance of this sort has been made heretofore, except in Towns where the Wood was to be bought, which, if I remember rightly, was the case invariably while I commanded the Army; it would be a dangerous innovation to begin it now; for it would instantly pervade *all the Garrisons*, and the whole Army; be their situation what it may. In time of peace, where no danger is to be apprehended, and where the duty is light, I see no hardship in the Soldiers providing fuel for their *own* use, and comfort. With regard to a Sein, as the expence will be small, (if it is taken care of) and the convenience great, I think the Garrison should be indulged with one.

There is another part of Captn. Bruffs letter which I do not perfectly understand, where he says, "he is at a loss what orders to give Lieutt. Rowen 27 respecting the continuance of his command, &ca. &ca. or whether to join me, or stay, on the arrival of a reinforcement, or detachment." Doubts of this sort should be removed as soon as possible.

There is a suggestion in Mr. Glens letter of the 17th. of July which merits consideration. I mean the purchase of a Vessel (now in use) on Lake Ontario. The Utility of this measure depends very much, if not altogether, upon the cheapest and best channel through which to supply the Garrison

27. Lieut. Robert Rowan (Rowen), of the Artillerists and Engineers.

at Niagara, with Provisions and Stores. If by the rout of the Mohawk and Oswego, a *proper* Vessel on Lake Ontario would certainly be useful; If by the way of Presque-Isle and



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Lake Erie, it would be unnecessary; and if by a middle communication suggested (I think by Mr. Weston) to the Canal Company in the State of New York, in some report which has been published, it would depend much upon the place of its entrance into the above-mentioned lake for its utility.<sup>28</sup>

28. In the writing of George Washington Craik.

### To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 12, 1796.

Sir: The originals and drafts of letters, enclosed in yours of the 8th. instt, are herewith returned.

The publication of the letters to and from Lieutt. Colo. England was certainly improper; and the reprehension of Genl. Wilkinson for *doing it* , or suffering it *to be done* , is just; and the manner in which it has been conveyed to him is delicate.

The draught of the letter to Colo. Gaither, predicated on the information you *had* received, is very proper; But as Colo. Hawkins is on his way to Philadelphia, and Mr. Clymer<sup>41</sup> probably arrived there, I would not have it dispatched until you communicate fully and freely with them on all matters and things relative to that frontier; the establishment of Posts, &ca. &ca. Many things in oral conversations often cast up that never can be well explained, and understood by written transmissions from so distant a part of the Union. It is better to encounter a little delay in acquiring perfect information, (as much so I mean, as the nature of the case will admit) than to have a second letter to write on the same subject; corrective perhaps, in some instances, of the first. This appears the more necessary in the present case, for as much as Colo. Hawkins is furnished with suggestions from the Indians themselves, relative to proper sites for the establishment of Military

41. George Clymer.

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and trading Posts.

General Picken's<sup>42</sup> sentiments respecting the conduct of the Indian Agent to the Southward, accords precisely with the ideas I have entertained of that person, sometime past. It is necessary therefore that every information, derivable from the Commissioners, and other sources should be obtained that the government may take its measures accordingly.

As I expect to be in Philadelphia about the 22d. instant, I shall not enlarge on these, or touch any other subject, except informing you that the Pardon for Lieutt. Geddis<sup>43</sup> is returned with my signature. <sup>44</sup>

42. Andrew Pickens.

43. The original of the pardon of Lieut. Simon Geddes (Geddis) is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A copy is in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

44. In the writing of George Washington Craik.

### **To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, October 17, 1796.

Sir: By the last Mail I received three letters from you (with their several numerous enclosures) the first dated the 8th. and the other two the 10th. of this instant.

The enclosures are all returned under cover with this letter; and as I expect to be at the Seat of Government by the first of next Month (if the health of those who are to accompany me will permit it) I shall express no Sentiments either on your letters or those papers until then: but desire that you would, in the mean time, receive the whole of them, and make a summary of such things as shall be found necessary for me to act upon, against my arrival. Not only in the instances alluded to, but all others; that every thing which can be dispatched previously may not, by delay interfere with the business of the approaching

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Session of Congress. Matters of mere routine, or Office decision, need never wait for any opinion of the President, or even be referred to him; as it serves to encrease (by the transcripts) your business, and to withdraw his attention from other concerns.<sup>6</sup>

6. In the writing of George Washington Craik.

### **\*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, December 3, 1796.

Sir: I have read all the letters of General Wayne, and their enclosures; as I have also done those of Captn. Bruff and others, which you have laid before me.

Note such matters (in all of them) as require particular directions, which I shall be ready to give whenever they are laid before me.

The other parts, which call only for Office attention, will, I am persuaded, meet with prompt and ready dispatch. It is my wish to keep

the business of the Departments up, leaving no burthen on my Successor that ought, of right, to be executed while I am in Office.